

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

2           Polygonal data input in a first step is subjected to  
3 evaluation in which all edges of the polygon data are ranked in  
4 importance on the basis of a volume change caused by removal of  
5 that edge. The edges are sorted on the basis of an evaluation  
6 value in a third step. In a fourth step, the edge of a small  
7 evaluation value is determined to be an edge of a small  
8 influence on the general shape and is removed. In a fifth step,  
9 a new vertex is determined from the loss of vertex by the edge  
10 removal. In a sixth step, a movement of texture coordinates and  
11 a removal of the texture after the edge removal are executed on  
12 the basis of the area change of the texture due to the edge  
13 removal by a predetermined evaluating function. In a seventh  
14 step, by repeating the processes in the second to sixth steps, a  
15 polygon model approximated to a desired layer can be obtained.